

since the establishment of the Land and Water Conservation Fund by Congress in 1965. I caution my fellow colleagues, however, that as we seek to become active participants we are still neglected in other processes that the Fish & Wildlife Service can and has exploited.

The reacquisition in Guam, by the United States, at the close of WWII resulted in large tracts of land condemned at the expense of landowners on Guam. U.S. officials reasoned with locals that the condemnations were in the interest of National Security. At that time, approximately one-half of Guam's land mass were taken. Today, one-third is still held by the Department of Defense. The people of Guam have lived with this reality for the better part of this century.

Though this situation has been one in which the people of Guam have had to endure, it was not widely questioned. After all, the security of your liberators is important to the security of yourself and at the time, threats to democracy were still clearly visible in the era of the Cold War. With the close of the Cold War era, however, the mindsets of individuals and families began to change. It was logical to think that if land takings were a result of National Security, and the threats to American democracy ceased to exist as another world power, then maybe someday the United States may give some land back to the people of Guam.

Perhaps this logic was too simple, but it was not far off. The focus of U.S. demilitarization and transition to opening up America to a global economy prompted downsizing of America's military services. Each of us here with a military base in their district are all too familiar with the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, which was created to close military installations based on need and not want.

In my district of Guam, this news was difficult for civil service employees who designed their careers around military presence on our island. After all, the military's years of presence and integration with the local community was accepted and welcomed. For landowners and their descendants, the news of base closures was a glimmer of hope that military land would be returned to anxious families.

Aside from being second-class citizens or regularly put-off in aspirations to seek a new political relationship, Guam does have something in common with other states of the Union. Not all the lands acquired by the Fish & Wildlife Service, for purposes of establishing a Wildlife Refuge, come from tapping the Land and Water Conservation Fund or the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, nor does all the land come from private donations. My colleagues, our commonality is that the Fish & Wildlife Service can take lands from our districts without our knowledge . . . without our consultation . . . even without notice to our respective local governments.

In the case of my island of Guam, the Fish & Wildlife Service seized more than 300 acres of land to be deemed excess by the US Air Force. This figure may seem small upon first hearing but if added to the additional 28,000 acres designated as an overlay for the refuge. Proportionately, this is akin to condemning 12 states and making them off limits. Fish & Wildlife arranged for this possession to occur with no notice to myself or any other local government leader. Fish and Wildlife hid behind procedural nonsense which leaves for no consideration to any entity other than themselves.

Often, Mr. Speaker, I express to the Congress circumstances that are unique to Guam's situation. In many cases, the experiences of my island and people have not and will not be duplicated or relived in any other territory or state, or by any other American citizen. I must remind my colleagues, however, that this is not the case in this case.

In light of these concerns, I am in agreement with the substitute to H.R. 512 and am appreciative that we are working to correct problems with current land acquisition procedures. In the future, I am hopeful that the issues I raised can be addressed in discussions with my colleagues.

We want to protect our resources; we want to protect the endangered species. But we must do so in a collaborative manner and in a way which takes into account local leadership and concerns.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 512, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to establish requirements relating to the designation of new units of the National Wildlife Refuge System."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill just passed and just debated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 171) declaring the memorial service sponsored by the National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Memorial Service Board of Directors to honor emergency medical services personnel to be the "National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Service," as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 171

Whereas in 1928 Julian Stanley Wise founded the first volunteer rescue squad in United States, the Roanoke Life Saving and First Aid Crew, and Virginia has subsequently taken the lead in honoring the thousands of people nationwide who give their time and energy to community rescue squads through the establishment of To The Rescue, a museum located in Roanoke devoted to emergency medical services (EMS) personnel;

Whereas to further recognize the selfless contributions of EMS personnel nationwide, the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads, Inc., and the Julian Stanley Wise Foundation, in conjunction with To The Rescue, in 1993 organized the first annual National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Memorial Service at Greene Memorial United Methodist Church in Roanoke, Virginia, to honor EMS personnel from across the country who have died in the line of duty;

Whereas the annual National EMS Memorial Service has captured national attention by honoring 119 providers of emergency medical services from 35 States;

Whereas the singular devotion of EMS personnel to the safety and welfare of their fellow citizens is worthy of the highest praise;

Whereas the annual National EMS Memorial Service is a fitting reminder of the bravery and sacrifice of EMS personnel nationwide;

Whereas according to the Department of Health and Human Services, 170,000 Americans require emergency medical services on an average day, a number which projects to over 60,000,000 people annually; and

Whereas the life of every American will be affected, directly or indirectly, by the uniquely skilled and dedicated efforts of EMS personnel who work bravely and tirelessly to preserve America's greatest resource—people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).

SECTION 1. OFFICIAL SITE OF NATIONAL MEMORIAL SERVICE.

The Congress declares the City of Roanoke, Virginia, to be the official site of the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Service to honor emergency medical services personnel who have died in the line of duty.

SEC. 2. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this resolution shall be construed to place the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Service under Federal authority or to require any expenditure of Federal funds.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 171, the resolution now being considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to approve H. Con. Res. 171 introduced by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE), which designates the city of Roanoke, Virginia, to be the official site of the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Service.